

# Old Maid

2 players

51 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Medium

## Avoid being the player left holding the unmatched Queen (Old Maid).

### SETUP

- Remove one Queen from a standard 52-card deck (51 cards remain).
- Deal all cards evenly to players.
- Players discard any matching pairs from their hand.

### SCORING

- No point system; the player left with the unmatched Queen loses.
- All other players win.

*Tip: Place the Old Maid in the middle of your hand to make it less obvious when offering cards.*

### ON YOUR TURN

- Offer your hand face-down to the player on your left.
- That player draws one card from your hand.
- If the drawn card completes a pair, discard the pair immediately.

*Old Maid is a classic card game played with a standard deck of cards, often enjoyed by children and families. The game is simple to learn and involves players trying to avoid being left with the "Old Maid" card.*

## Objective

The objective of Old Maid is to avoid being the player left with the "Old Maid" card at the end of the game. Players aim to match pairs of cards and discard them until all pairs are formed, leaving one unmatched card, which is the "Old Maid."

## Setup

1. **Players:** Old Maid can be played with 2 or more players.
2. **Card Deck:** Use a standard 52-card deck with one Queen removed, leaving 51 cards.
3. **Dealing:** Cards are shuffled, and each player is dealt an equal number of cards.

## Basic Rules

1. **Starting the Game:** The player to the dealer's left starts by offering their hand face down to the player on their left. The player to their left selects one card from the hand. If they find a pair in their hand, they discard the pair face-up. Play continues clockwise until all pairs have been discarded.
2. **Matching Pairs:** Players try to match pairs of cards by rank (e.g., two Aces, two Fours, etc.). When a player finds a pair, they place it face-up on the table. Players discard all pairs from their hand at the start of the game and whenever new pairs are formed during play. If a player has three of a kind, they discard one pair and keep the odd card.
3. **The Old Maid Card:** The game continues until all pairs are formed and discarded, except for one unmatched card. The player left with the single unmatched card, known as the "Old Maid," loses the game.
4. **Winning:** The player who successfully avoids being left with the "Old Maid" card is the winner. In some variations, multiple rounds may be played, and the player with the fewest points (from being left with unmatched cards) wins.

## Variations

To accommodate more players or increase the difficulty, multiple decks can be used.

## Tips and Strategies

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- Pay attention to the cards discarded by other players to deduce which cards they may be holding.
- Try to form pairs strategically to avoid being left with the "Old Maid" card.

## Tips & Strategy

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Pay attention to discarded cards and strategize to avoid being left with the 'Old Maid' card. Form pairs strategically and consider the point values of cards in variations with scoring systems.

While Old Maid is a relatively simple game, strategic decision-making can involve discarding cards strategically to avoid being left with the 'Old Maid' card.